



# TDEC Tips for a "Green" Holiday Season

## Festive Activities

- 🌲 Bring your own reusable cloth bags for holiday shopping.
- 🌲 Consider gifts that keep on giving such as a battery charger, a perpetual calendar or an erasable message board. Give the gift of experience or non-materialistic "green" gifts that do not require wrapping, such as certificates to concerts, movies, theaters, restaurants or cooking classes.
- 🌲 Create a family legacy by buying durable toys made from wood or metal that can be passed from generation to generation, becoming family heirlooms.
- 🌲 Give two gifts in one by using baskets, fabric bags, scarves or pillowcases to wrap gifts. Sunday comics make colorful gift wrap for children's packages.
- 🌲 Purchase larger rolls of film. They are cheaper and reduce waste.
- 🌲 Save gift boxes, bows and ribbon to use next year.
- 🌲 Keep the fronts of old Christmas cards to frame them and use to decorate your house during the holiday season.
- 🌲 Use last year's holiday cards as gift tags.
- 🌲 Decorate your home with holly, cedar, berries, fruits and nuts, all of which can be composted after use. Use popcorn and cranberries to decorate the tree.
- 🌲 Wrap kitchen gifts in a colorful towel. Kitchen utensils can pop out of an oven mit.
- 🌲 Have children make their own wrapping paper by designing and coloring on paper grocery bags.
- 🌲 Donate to a charitable organization in the recipient's name.
- 🌲 Use popcorn for packing instead of styrofoam peanuts...the birds can eat it.
- 🌲 Share the gift of your time or talent—give a coupon for babysitting, housecleaning, car washing, making dinner or teaching a skill.

## New Year

- 🌸 Start the new year off with a "green" New Year's resolution to create less waste.
- 🌸 Commit to purchasing longer lasting products such as florescent light bulbs and rechargeable batteries. You will save money and have less trash to get rid of.
- 🌸 Start a magazine club with your co-workers or neighbors. You can cut your subscriptions in half by swapping issues. You'll save money, enjoy more magazines and cut back on trash at the same time. (Remember to recycle!)
- 🌸 Avoid purchasing over-packaged products or disposable products—they create more waste.
- 🌸 Cancel unwanted mail-order catalogs.